

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13430 301809Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 TAR-02 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /055 W

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R 301618Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7198

UNCLAS ROME 13430

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN IT

SUBJ: TVA TAX ON SEALSKIN FUR

REF: STATE 212202

ROME REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALIAN FUR TRADE ASSOCIATION AGREED TO CONTACT RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE SEALSKIN FUR (PELLE DI FOCA) AND QUOTE LONTRA UNQUOTE SEALSKIN (PELLE DI LONTRA) FOR TV TAX PURPOSES. IT APPEARS MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE PURSUADED THAT THE TWO FURS WERE NOT THE SAME AND THEREFORE SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT TVA TAX RATES. THEY ASKED (IN USUAL FASHION) THAT POINTS BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND MAILED OR HAND CARRIED TO MINISTRY PRESUMABLY FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTION ON THEIR PART.

AT OUR INSISTENCE WE ASKED REPRESENTATIVE TO SPECIAL DELIVER LETTER WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PREPARED WITH DATE OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1974. AGATTACHE TO RECEIVE COPY.

FUR TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN ANSWER TO OUR PRODDING SPECULATED THAT IN VIEW OF EFFORTS TO BUTTRESS ALL POTENTIAL SOURCES OF REVENUE GOI WILL LIKELY ADD SEALSKIN FUR TO LIST OF LUXURY ITEMS SUBJECT TO 30 PERCENT TVA TAX. IN HIS ESTIMATE, HOWEVER, KIT WILL BE PROBABLY ANOTHER TWO WEEKS BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS REACHED. UNTIL THEN SEALSKIN IS EXEMPT FROM THE HIGHER TAX AND U.S. EXPORTERS SHOULD RESIST PRESSURE AT CUSTOMS TO PAY IT. IF PROBLEMS PERSIST EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE
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PAGE 02 ROME 13430 301809Z

TO INTERVENE IN SPECIFIC CASES TO GET SHIPMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS.

U.S. EXPORTING FIRMS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO ADD IN ITALIAN THE
WORDS QUOTE PELLE DI FOCA UNQUOTE OR QUOTE FOCA D'ALASKA UNQUOTE
NEXT TO THE ENGLISH WORD QUOTE SEALSKIN UNQUOTE TO HELP DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN REAL SEALSKIN AND OTHER FURS. ADDITION MAY NOT BE
TOTALLY SUFFICIENT TO AVOID ALL PROBLEMS AT CUSTOMS BUT MIGHT
PROVIDE ENOUGH EXTRA INFORMATION TO CUSTOMS OFFICER TO AID
HIM IN REVIEWING SHIPMENT DOCUMENTS.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FURS, SEALS (ANIMAL), VALUE ADDED TAXES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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